

The thirteenth edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services for the Purposes of the Registration of Marks (the Nice Classification)

12 December, 2025




Intellectual Property Department
The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region



Agenda



- How is the International Classification updated?
 - What revisions are to be made by the 13th edition of the International Classification (“13th edition”)?
 - How will the 13th edition affect the Trade Marks Registry’s cross search list?
 - How to reclassify goods and services of trade mark registrations in accordance with the 13th edition?
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**How is the
International Classification updated?**



How is the International Classification updated?

- The World Intellectual Property Organization (the Committee of Experts of the Nice Union (“the Committee”)) revises the International Classification from time to time to keep it up to date.
- At the 21st session of the Committee held in 2010, the Committee had decided, among others, that:
 1. amendments involving a transfer of goods or services from one class to another or the creation of any new class (“amendments to the International Classification”) would be made within the five-year cycle;
 2. a new version reflecting the updates in respect of additions, deletions and changes in the wording of indications would be published annually.
- At its 31st session held in 2021, the Committee had decided, among others, that the next revision period for amendments to the International Classification would last for three years.
- The 13th edition will enter into force on 1.1.2026.



**What revisions are
to be made by the 13th edition?**



What revisions are to be made by the 13th edition?

1. Revisions concerning essential oils[#]
2. Addition of new indications[#]
3. Deletion of indications[#]
4. Change of indications[#]
5. Transfer of indications^{*}
6. Change and transfer of indications^{*}
7. Addition, deletion, change, change and transfer of indications ^{*}
8. Changes to class headings and explanatory notes

[#] *some revisions would affect cross search list*

^{*} *affecting cross search list*

Revisions concerning essential oils (1)

“essential oils” in Class 3 (12th edition)



13th edition

Classification of “essential oils” according to their function or purpose

Addition	Class 1	essential oils for use in manufacture
Addition	Class 3	essential oils for fragrancng
Change	Class 3	essential oils for cosmetic purposes (changed from “essential oils”)
Deletion	Class 3	essential oils for aromatherapy use
Deletion	Class 3	food flavourings [essential oils]

Revisions concerning essential oils (2)

“essential oils” in Class 3 (12th edition)



13th edition

Classification of “essential oils” according to their function or purpose

Addition	Class 5	aromatherapy oils
Change	Class 30	food flavourings (change from “food flavourings, other than essential oils”)
Change	Class 34	flavourings for tobacco (change from “flavourings, other than essential oils, for tobacco”)

Addition of new indications

Examples

Class	New indication
6	soap dispensers of metal
9	virtual mirrors [interactive electronic displays]
10	nose clips for swimmers
20	soap dispensers, not of metal
41	arranging and conducting of business conferences
42	artificial intelligence as a service [AlaaS]



Soap dispensers / Soap dispensing bottles



Class 6

soap dispensers of metal

Class 20

soap dispensers, not of metal

Class 21

soap dispensing bottles



Deletion of indications

Examples

Class	Indication
3	geraniol
3	heliotropine
3	safrol
3	ionone [perfumery]
9	eyewear
45	rental of spectacles for fashion purposes, other than for vision correction / rental of eyeglasses for fashion purposes, other than for vision correction

Change of indications

Examples

Class	The 12th edition	The 13th edition
9	trackballs [computer peripherals]	computer trackballs
9	nose clips for divers and swimmers	nose clips for divers
42	construction drafting	drafting construction plans
44	rental of spectacles for vision correction/ rental of eyeglasses for vision correction	rental of spectacles / rental of eyeglasses



nose clips for divers / swimmers



Class 10

nose clips for swimmers

ear plugs for swimmers

Class 9

nose clips for divers

ear plugs for divers



Transfer of goods from one class to another (1)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Classification under the 13th edition
spectacles / eyeglasses	Class 9	Class 10
spectacle lenses / eyeglass lenses	Class 9	Class 10
spectacle frames / eyeglass frames	Class 9	Class 10
spectacle chains / eyeglass chains	Class 9	Class 10
spectacle cords / eyeglass cords	Class 9	Class 10

Transfer of goods from one class to another (2)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Classification under the 13th edition
spectacles for correcting colour vision deficiency	Class 9	Class 10
spectacle cases / eyeglass cases	Class 9	Class 10
contact lenses	Class 9	Class 10
containers for contact lenses	Class 9	Class 10
contact lens cases incorporating ultrasonic cleaning functions	Class 9	Class 10

Transfer of goods from one class to another (3)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Classification under the 13th edition
sunglasses	Class 9	Class 10
sunglasses for pets	Class 9	Class 10
pince-nez	Class 9	Class 10

Transfer of goods from one class to another (4)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Classification under the 13th edition
fire engines	Class 9	Class 12
fire boats	Class 9	Class 12
life-saving rafts	Class 9	Class 12
lifeboats	Class 9	Class 12
evacuation chairs	Class 9	Class 12
surf skis	Class 28	Class 12

Transfer of goods from one class to another (5)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Classification under the 13th edition
tongue scrapers	Class 10	Class 21
electrically heated clothing	Class 11	Class 25

Change and transfer of goods from one class to another (1)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Changed to	Classification under the 13th edition
terpenes [essential oils]	Class 3	terpenes	Class 1
correcting lenses [optics]	Class 9	corrective lenses	Class 10
anti-glare glasses	Class 9	anti-glare spectacles / anti-glare eyeglasses	Class 10

Change and transfer of goods from one class to another (2)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Changed to	Classification under the 13th edition
socks, electrically heated	Class 11	electrically heated socks	Class 25
footmuffs, electrically heated	Class 11	footmuffs, electrically heated or not electrically heated	Class 25

Change and transfer of goods from one class to another (3)

Goods	Classification under the 12th edition	Changed to	Classification under the 13th edition
nozzles for watering hose	Class 21	nozzles for watering hoses	Class 17
buttercream	Class 29	buttercream [icing]	Class 30

Addition, deletion, change, change and transfer of indications (1)

Examples

Clutch linings

- Addition of “clutch linings, other than for land vehicles” in Class 7
- Addition of “clutch linings for land vehicles” in Class 12
- Deletion of “clutch linings” from Class 17

Addition, deletion, change, change and transfer of indications (2)

Examples

Food flavourings

- Deletion of “food flavourings [essential oils]” from Class 3
- Change of “food flavourings, other than essential oils” in Class 30 to “food flavourings”

Addition, deletion, change, change and transfer of indications (3)

Examples

Spectacles / eyeglasses

- Deletion of “eyewear” from Class 9
- Transfer of “spectacles / eyeglasses” in Class 9 to Class 10
- Change and transfer of “anti-glare glasses” in Class 9 to “anti-glare spectacles / anti-glare eyeglasses” in Class 10




Changes to class headings and explanatory notes (1)



Examples

Class headings

- Class 3: Replace “perfumery, essential oils” with “perfumes”
 - Class 10: Add “spectacles, contact lenses and sunglasses”
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Changes to class headings and explanatory notes (2)

Examples

Explanatory notes

Class 9

- Under “*This Class includes, in particular:*”, delete “*fire engines*”, “*eyeglasses, contact lenses*”, and “*eyeglass cases*”.
- Under “*This Class does not include, in particular:*”, add “*nose clips for swimmers (Cl. 10)*”, “*spectacles, contact lenses, sunglasses (Cl. 10)*”, and “*emergency and rescue vehicles, for example, ambulances, fire engines, lifeboats, rescue boats, rescue sleds (Cl. 12)*”.




**How will the 13th edition affect the
Registry's cross search list?**





How will the 13th edition affect the Registry's cross search list?

- We take account of changes to the International Classification in our searches for earlier marks.
 - The list sets out, in principle, the classes in which the Registry would normally search in respect of particular goods or services to identify earlier marks for identical or similar goods or services.
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Revisions concerning essential oils

Examples

Goods	Cross search against
<u>Class 5</u> aromatherapy oils	<u>Class 3</u> essential oils for aromatherapy use (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 30</u> food flavourings	<u>Class 3</u> food flavourings [essential oils] (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)

Revisions resulting from addition of indications

Examples

Goods	Cross search against
<u>Class 6</u> soap dispensers of metal	<u>Class 21</u> soap dispensers (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 20</u> soap dispensers, not of metal	

Revisions resulting from deletion of indications

Examples

Goods	Cross search against
<u>Class 1</u> geraniol; heliotropine; ionone; safrol	<u>Class 3</u> geraniol; heliotropine; ionone [perfumery]; safrol (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)

Revisions resulting from the transfer of goods from one class to another

Examples

Goods	Cross search against
<u>Class 10</u> spectacles / eyeglasses	<u>Class 9</u> spectacles / eyeglasses (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 12</u> fire boats; fire engines	<u>Class 9</u> fire boats; fire engines (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 21</u> tongue scrapers	<u>Class 10</u> tongue scrapers (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 25</u> electrically heated clothing	<u>Class 11</u> electrically heated clothing (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)

Revisions resulting from the change and transfer of goods from one class to another

Examples

Goods	Cross search against
<u>Class 1</u> terpenes	<u>Class 3</u> terpenes [essential oils] (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 25</u> electrically heated socks; footmuffs, electrically heated or not electrically heated	<u>Class 11</u> socks, electrically heated; footmuffs, electrically heated (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 30</u> buttercream [icing]	<u>Class 29</u> buttercream (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)

Revisions resulting from Addition, deletion, change, change and transfer of indications

Examples

Goods	Cross search against
<u>Class 7</u> clutch linings, other than for land vehicles	<u>Class 17</u> clutch linings (cite only marks filed before 1.1.2026)
<u>Class 12</u> clutch linings for land vehicles	



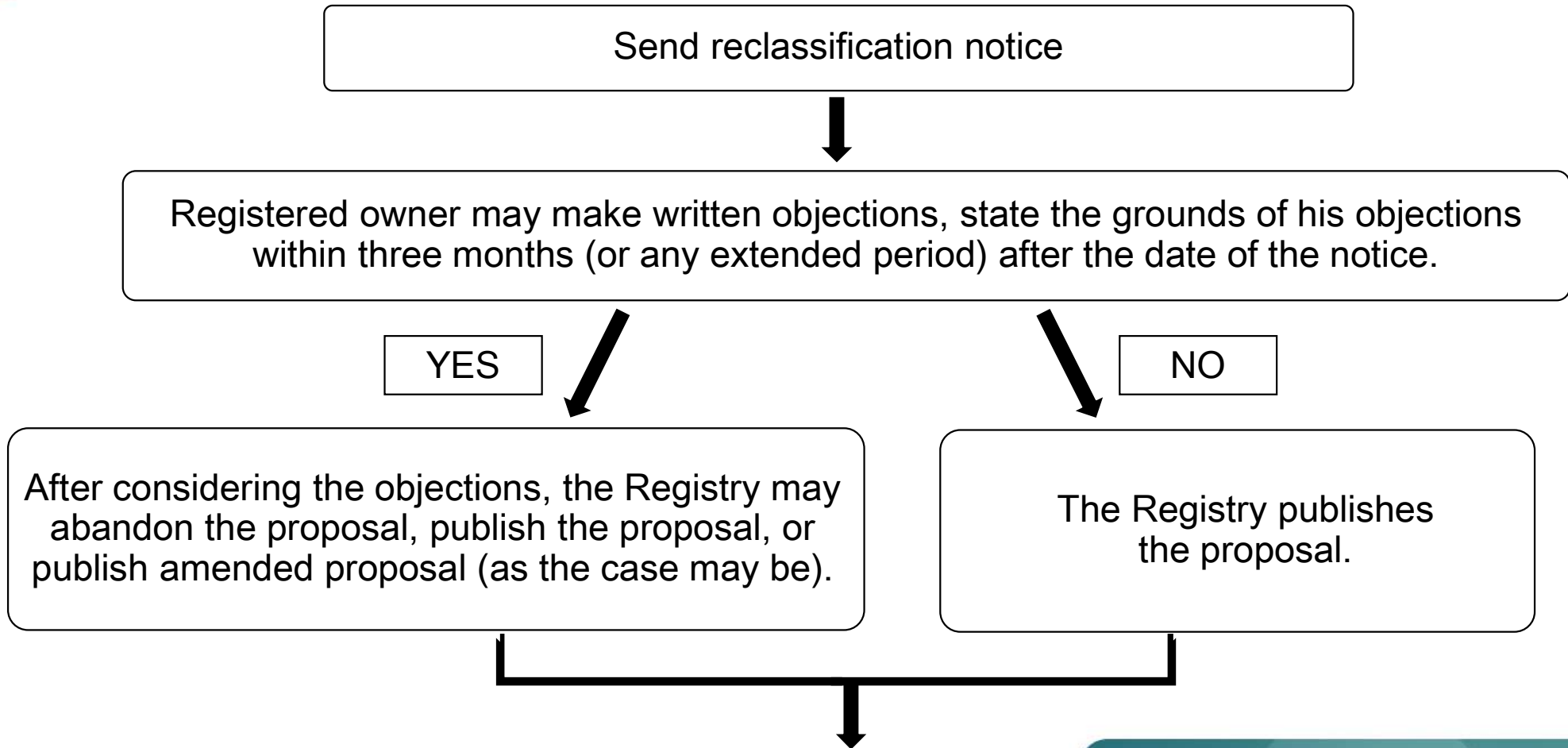
How to reclassify goods and services of trade mark registrations in accordance with the 13th edition?



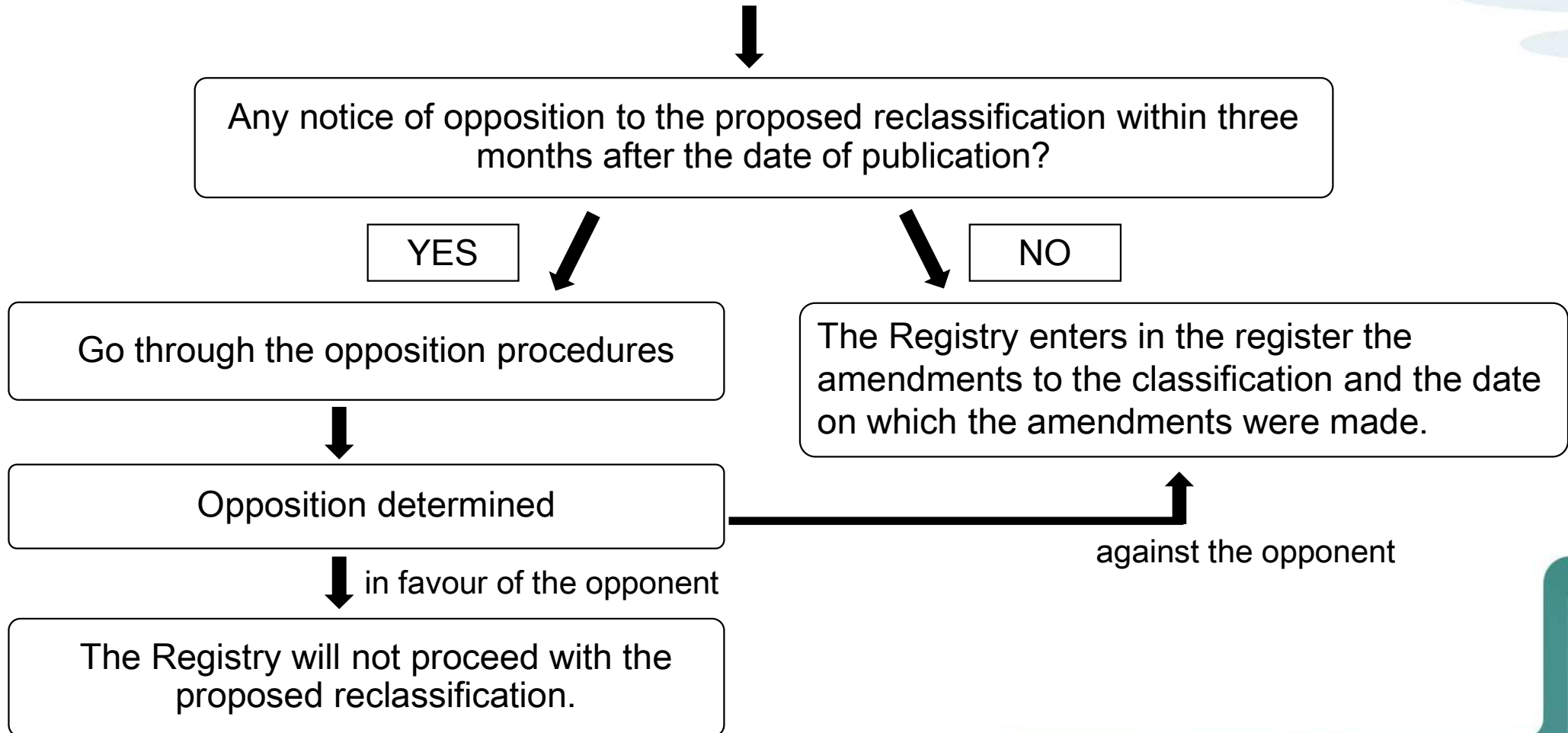
How to reclassify goods and services of trade mark registrations in accordance with the 13th edition?

- We will reclassify registrations to be consistent with the 13th edition.
- Reclassification includes:
 - registrations classified under classes listed in Schedule 4 to the old Trade Marks Rules (Cap.43 subsidiary legislation) or in a superseded edition of the International Classification, that are not consistent with the 13th edition
 - registrations classified in accordance with the 12th edition of the International Classification that will be affected by the classification changes to be made by the 13th edition

Workflow of reclassification (1)



Workflow of reclassification (2)





Documents on the 13th edition

Relevant details of the 13th edition can be found at
<https://www.wipo.int/en/web/classification-nice/> .



How to obtain further information on the 13th edition after it has entered into force on 1.1.2026?

IPD's website

- Trade Marks Registry Work Manual Chapters on “Classification” and “Cross search list”
<https://ipd.gov.hk/en/trade-marks/trade-marks-registry-work-manual/index.html>
- How to classify my goods/services?
<https://ipd.gov.hk/en/trade-marks/apply-for-a-trade-mark/how-to-classify-my-goods-services/index.html>
- Trade mark search – Goods/Services Classification Search
<http://ipsearch.ipd.gov.hk/trademark/jsp/main.jsp>

FAQ

- If you file the corresponding application for registration in the Hong Kong SAR on or after **1 January, 2026**, the goods or services concerned need to be classified in accordance with the thirteenth edition of the Nice Classification. For example, if the first Paris Convention application or WTO application contains the goods “**eyeglasses**” which fall under Class 9 under the twelfth edition of the Nice Classification, when you file the corresponding application for registration in the Hong Kong SAR on or after **1 January 2026**, you need to put the goods “**eyeglasses**” under **Class 10** in accordance with the thirteenth edition of the Nice Classification. The difference in the class numbers of certain goods and services due to the application of the thirteenth edition of the Nice Classification does not affect an applicant’s right of priority if the requirements for claim to priority under section 41 of the Trade Marks Ordinance and rule 9(1) of the Trade Marks Rules have been met.

Thank you



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